

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 9-20 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 9-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 9-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwai Shiro of Honda Access Corp. (JP 2001-155801).

By this Amendment, Applicant hereby amends claims 9 and 17.

Specification

The Examiner asserts that the title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Applicants hereby submit a new, more descriptive title.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 9-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Specifically, the Examiner asserts that claims 9 and 17 have limitations with insufficient antecedent basis. Applicants hereby amend claims 9 and 17 in order to cure the noted deficiency.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 9-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwai Shiro of Honda Access Corp. (JP 2001-155801).

Claim 9 recites, “ an electrical unit holder including; retaining portions for respectively releasably retaining said function portions; and an interconnecting portion interconnecting the retaining portions, and when said electrical equipment unit is to be mounted in an electrical equipment-mounting window formed in an interior wall member, said unit holder holds the function portions spaced a predetermined distance from each other by said retaining portions and said interconnecting portion.” Claim 17 recites similar limitations.

The Examiner alleges that Shiro discloses all of the aspects of independent claims 9 and 17, citing FIGS. 18-26. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that element 4 of Shiro corresponds to the recited function portions, element 104 corresponds to the recited wires, element 5 corresponds to the recited design portion, element 2 corresponds to the recited retaining portions and element 103 corresponds to the recited elastic interconnecting portion.

Shiro discloses: a connecting structure for electric machinery with a function portion (4), a design portion (5) and an electrical unit holder (2), a retaining portion (105) and an interconnection portion (101). Shiro further discloses that the electric unit holder (2) is assembled with a joint terminal (101) and is therefore not a single unit. The joint terminal (101) comprises a retaining portion (105) and an interconnecting portion (101). Therefore, Shiro fails to disclose an electrical unit holder as recited in claim 9, and claim 9 is patentable over the applied art. Claim 17 is patentable for reasons analogous to those noted with regard to claim 9.

Claims 10-16 and 18-20 are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies.

Further, claims 19 and 20 are patentable for reasons independent of their dependency.

The Examiner alleges that element 5 of Shiro corresponds to the recited bulb covers. Applicants respectfully disagree. Claim 19 requires that the bulb covers be formed as part of the retaining portion. Shiro, on the other hand, shows that bulb covers 5 are separate from the retaining portions 2. Thus, the retaining portions of Shapiro cannot “comprise a bulb cover”, as recited in claims 19 and 20, and claims 19 and 20 are patentable over the applied art.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 10/562,575

Attorney Docket No.: Q92346

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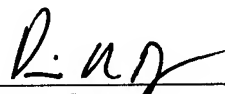
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